



Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General, in Indonesia, condemns killing of thousands of internally displaced persons at Kibeho camp in Rwanda; demands immediate end to atrocities.
- + Security Council establishes list of twelve candidates for Judges on International Tribunal for Rwanda.
- + Security Council welcomes transfer of responsibilities from Multinational Force to UNMIH; calls on Government and people of Haiti to help Mission help them, saying they bear primary responsibility for national reconstruction.
- + Secretary-General has meetings with President of Indonesia and heads of United Nations agencies in Jakarta; addresses Bandung Conference commemorative meeting.
- + Russian Federation expresses strong support for indefinite and unconditional extension of NPT; Iraq says one State has refused to accede to Treaty while acquiring nuclear weapons.
- + Three French peace-keepers killed in accidental explosion while defusing ammunition in Sarajevo; UNPROFOR honour guard comes under fire at city airport.
- + Prosecutor of International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia names Bosnian Serb leaders as suspects in war crimes investigation.
- + Secretary-General says retention of full-time Special Representative for Somalia cannot be justified.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed shock and horror at the indiscriminate killing of thousands of internally displaced persons at the Kibeho camp in Rwanda. The Secretary-General condemned that action in the strongest terms, and demanded an immediate end to the atrocities. He said he

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was sending an envoy to Kigali to deliver a personal message to the Rwandese Government.

The killings occurred on Saturday, after some internally displaced persons tried to break out of the Rwandese Army cordon around the Kibeho camp. Troops opened fire to control the break-out, killing many of them. A second attempted break-out three hours later led to heavy retaliatory firing by the Army. Special Representative Shahryar Khan put the number of casualties from the firing and the resulting stampedes at 5,000 killed and 600 to 700 wounded. However, the spokesman stressed that those figures were rough estimates, and noted that some of the dead had been buried before United Nations personnel arrived on the scene.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has been evacuating the wounded for medical treatment, while its engineers have been repairing roads into the camp. The Mission has provided 80 vehicles for displaced persons wishing to leave the area, and peace-keepers have taken some 400 children under their protection. Non-governmental organizations have also provided humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata condemned the killings at Kibeho and urged the Government to ensure that survivors were treated humanely. She said the brutality of the action was disproportionate to any objective of moving displaced people from camps. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has redeployed field officers to monitor the Kibeho area and to facilitate the return of displaced people to their homes.

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The Security Council today established a list of twelve candidates for Judges on the International Tribunal for Rwanda, in accordance with Article 12 of the Statute of the Tribunal. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 889 (1995).

The following twelve nominees received the required nine votes from members of the Council: Lennart Aspegren of Sweden; Kevin Haugh of Ireland; Leity Kama of Senegal; T.H. Khan of Bangladesh; Wamalungwe Mainga of Zambia; Yakov Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation; Navanethem Pillay of South Africa; Edilbert Razafindralambo of Madagascar; William Sekule of the United Republic of Tanzania; Anne Marie Stoltz of Norway; Jiri Toman of the Czech Republic and Switzerland; and Lloyd Williams of Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

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The Security Council today welcomed the transfer of responsibilities from the Multinational Force to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) on 31 March. In a statement by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council shared the Secretary-General's view that the transfer was a milestone in international efforts to bring peace and stability to Haiti.

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However, the Council said much remained to be done to institutionalize democracy in Haiti. It reiterated the Secretary-General's call for the people of Haiti and their leaders to help UNIMH help them. While the Mission would help the Haitian Government sustain a secure and stable environment, a functioning and fair justice system and the early deployment of an effective police force were central to Haiti's long-term stability.

The Government and people of Haiti bore the primary responsibility for the country's political, economic and social reconstruction, the Council continued. However, the sustained commitment of the international community was indispensable for long-term peace and stability. The Council underlined the importance of free, fair and secure elections for the democratic future of Haiti. It urged the Government to take all necessary steps to ensure the success of the elections, and in particular to register as many voters as possible. The Council also emphasized that the Presidential elections should take place on schedule before UNMIH's withdrawal in February 1996.

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Continuing his official visit to Indonesia, the Secretary-General today addressed a meeting commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Bandung Asia-Africa Conference. At that Conference, he said, countries from both continents had met to decide on their position in the international system, having become free of colonial occupation. They had refused to be part of the bipolar struggle, opting instead for an independent role in international affairs. Six years later, the Non-Aligned Movement had emerged as a political and economic force which transcended immediate regional interests.

The Secretary-General had a range of appointments over the weekend, including a meeting with President Soeharto. They discussed several issues, including United Nations peace-keeping, South-South cooperation and the question of East Timor. The President elaborated on Indonesia's initiative to facilitate a comprehensive agreement in the former Yugoslavia. The Secretary-General welcomed that initiative.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with representatives of the United Nations agencies in Indonesia, and stressed the importance of coordination between them. On Saturday, he addressed the Foreign Affairs Forum of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, and the National Youth Forum on Environment. He will leave Indonesia tomorrow to begin a five-day official visit to Australia.

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The Russian Federation firmly stands for an indefinite and unconditional extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told the 1995 Review and Extension Conference today. He said that rejecting that option would mean demolishing the foundation of international stability. Indefinite extension would not give the nuclear-weapon States a mandate to retain their arsenals indefinitely. It would, instead, mean a progressive movement towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and the Russian Federation was committed to that goal.

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The representative of Iraq, Wissam Al-Zahawi, said "one State" in the Middle East had refused to accede to the Treaty even as it was acquiring nuclear weapons with the assistance of a nuclear-weapon State. By taking military action against nuclear facilities in a nearby State that were under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, that State was attacking not only another country, but the Agency itself. The Security Council and the IAEA had repeatedly called on that State to open its facilities to a safeguard regime, but the international community had done nothing because one nuclear Power thought that State was entitled to possess nuclear weapons. The Conference should dedicate itself to achieving a time-table for complete nuclear disarmament and universality for the Treaty.

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Three French United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) soldiers were killed, and four were wounded, in Sarajevo on Saturday when some ammunition they were defusing exploded. An honour guard escorting the bodies of the three peace-keepers to an aircraft at the city's airport was fired at today. A United Nations spokesman described that incident as disgraceful.

Yesterday, a United Nations observation post near Doboï was attacked by Bosnian Serb forces. UNPROFOR requested a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air presence, and two aircraft were fired at while flying over the area.

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The Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia today announced that he was investigating the responsibility of the Bosnian Serb leadership for a wide range of war crimes. Justice Richard Goldstone said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, army commander Ratko Mladic, and former police official Mico Stanisic were suspected of genocide and other serious offences against civilians, and the destruction of cultural and historical monuments. He was further examining their responsibility for offences for which indictments had already been issued, including genocide, crimes against humanity, murder and rape. The siege of Sarajevo and unlawful attacks against United Nations personnel were also being investigated.

The Prosecutor has submitted two applications for deferral to the Trial Chambers of the International Tribunal. One application relates to the investigation into the Bosnian Serb leadership, while the other relates to crimes allegedly committed in the Lasava River Valley in 1992 and 1993. If they are approved, Bosnia and Herzegovina will be formally asked to defer to the Tribunal's jurisdiction in those cases.

The deferral applications were necessary so that individuals would not be tried twice for the same crime, according to the Prosecutor. A person tried by a national court could not be tried again by the International Tribunal, except in very limited circumstances. The proceedings in the International Tribunal were likely to be broader in scope than the national prosecutions. "Where there is overlap and possible conflict, the national courts must give way to the requirements of international law", he said.

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The retention of a full-time Special Representative for Somalia at the under-secretary-general level cannot be justified at the present time, according to the Secretary-General. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 18 April, he said Special Representative Victor Gbeho would return home to Ghana because of the limited possibilities for United Nations political efforts related to Somalia.

Instead, the Secretary-General has decided to establish a small political office to monitor the situation in Somalia and keep contact with the parties there. The office will be headed by a representative at the D-2 level, assisted by two Professional officers and a limited number of support staff. It will operate temporarily from Nairobi, but will be moved to Mogadishu as soon as circumstances permit. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 21 April, the Council President welcomed that decision.

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